

Committee on Homeland Security Democrats Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member

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THOMPSON CALLS FOR MODERN MEASURES TO PROTECT AMERICA: "Republican Plan To Hide Behind Wall Will Fail"

"The 'Real ID' bill now before Congress is a real failure when it comes to truly securing America from terrorist infiltration," said Congressman Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member of the House Homeland Security Committee.

"The Republican plan calls for a few miles of fence to protect America. That fence would not have stopped a single 9/11 hijacker from coming into America. If this is the Republican answer for protecting America, our nation is at risk," said Thompson.

"Democrats support a comprehensive interagency border security strategy. We support strengthening the homeland by deploying the most advanced technologies at our borders, ports, and other points of entry. We support having an honest debate about the needs of our first responders, Border Patrol agents, and others on the front lines securing America. We support ensuring that federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies have the capability to check suspicious individuals against a comprehensive terrorist watch list."

"Our Democratic plan is faithful to the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission while the Republican plan reminds one of France in 1911. Fixed fortifications are doomed to failure."

"Hiding behind walls is not the answer. We must use improved intelligence, the tools, and technology of the 21st century to provide true security for the American people," said Thompson.